

October 31, 2002

Mr. Paul Marshall  
California Department of Water Resources  
Bay-Delta Office  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Mr. Dan Meier  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-700  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Subject: Comments Regarding the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent for the South Delta Improvements Program Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Mr. Marshall and Mr. Meier:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments from the Santa Clara Valley Water District on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent for the South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP) Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). As you are aware, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) provides wholesale water supply and flood management to Santa Clara County. To meet the demands of the County, about half of our water supply is imported through the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Consequently, we have a key stake in the CALFED Program and strongly support the timely implementation of the SDIP.

In regards to the scope of the EIR/EIS, we refer you to comments provided by the State Water Contractors Association on behalf of the State Water Contractors. The SCVWD strongly supports those comments and requests that your agency consider them as comments provided by SCVWD as well. In addition, we would like to emphasize the need for the EIR/EIS to evaluate drinking water quality impacts. Although salinity standards are addressed, the EIR/EIS should also include a discussion of the impacts of the SDIP on the level of drinking water constituents, particularly bromide and TOC, at the Clifton Court Forebay and the Tracy Pumping Plant. Water quality impacts should be assessed on at least a monthly basis under a full range of hydrologies.



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As a member of the CALFED Drinking Water Supply Sub-committee, we encourage your agency to develop the EIR/EIS in coordination with CALFED's Drinking Water Quality Program. The SDIP at a minimum should not result in any further degradation in drinking water quality. Ideally, the program should contribute towards CALFED's goal of continuous water quality improvement.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the SDIP EIR/EIS and would be happy to assist in this effort in the future. If you have any questions about our comments, please call Kellye Kennedy at (916) 448-8497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walt Wadlow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Walt Wadlow  
Chief Operating Officer